

**Minutes of the meeting of the Mains Estate Residents' Association (MERA) held  
on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Douglas Academy**

1. Present: Rona Hooper (Chair), Jim Goodall (Secretary), Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer), Jean Horn, Bob Mandeville, Debra Nixon  
In attendance: John Ross and Michael Bradnam  
Apologies: Les Robertson, Bob Diamond, Councillors Gotts, Henry and Gibbons, Rhona Barret, Fiona McNeish, Police Scotland and Community Wardens
2. The Chairperson opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to it.
3. (a) JG spoke to a report from Police Scotland which had been presented to Milngavie Community Council (MCC). The report identified that there had been a number of youth disturbances in Lennox Park recently.  
  
(b) JG spoke to a report which had been presented to MERA by the Community Wardens. MERA noted with gratitude that the Community Wardens had been active in addressing the issue of litter with pupils from Douglas Academy. They had done this with the full support of the school. Arrangements were being made to have pupils found dropping litter undertake litter clearing work in and around the school; the support of parents was needed before this could happen and this was being sought from the parents of pupils found dropping litter. The wardens had been keeping an eye on dog fouling in and around the estate. They anticipated an increase in dog fouling in the winter months. They would continue to monitor the position in the estate and would address any incidences of dog fouling which they witnessed.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
5. (a) It was noted that Councillor Henry had reported that she had been unable to find out what had happened to planning gain funds which would have been expected from the Mactaggart Mickel housing development, including that which had been received for the two houses which had been built on the site of the former Douglas Academy janitor's house. It was noted that Councillor Henry had caused the matter of improperly located estate agents' signs to be addressed. It was agreed that MERA should write to East Dunbartonshire Council's Chief Executive, Gerry Cornes, to ask him to find out what had happened to this money.  
(b) In relation to MERA's blog, it was noted that JG had taken over responsibility for the blog from Sarah Longrigg. LR would be continuing to maintain MERA's Facebook page.
6. It was reported that MERA has a balance of £3,897.70 currently. There are no outstanding demands of any significance due on the account. Bank signatory forms were distributed to MERA's office bearers for completion and return to EG.
7. Correspondence relating to Tambowie Farm's Biogas Plant had been received from a resident. This would be dealt with under Item 9 on the Agenda.

Correspondence relating to Craigton Woods had been received from a resident. This would also be dealt with under Item 9.

8. It was noted that MCC's November meeting was also being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. The main item on its agenda was The Bears Way Development. Mains Estate residents were attending the meeting and would provide feedback on it to the next MERA meeting. It was noted that MCC had discussed in very general terms how it might provide, in collaboration with other local agencies, support for any refugee families which might be accommodated in Milngavie. No other issues of immediate and major significance were on the MCC's November agenda.
9. (a) There was a wide-ranging discussion about concerns which were arising about the extent to which pre-start conditions to which the planning permission granted in relation to the Tambowie Farm Biogas Plant is subject were being met. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to East Dunbartonshire Council, copied to local elected members, to establish the extent to which these conditions have been met, to request that the plans which many of these conditions are meant to result in should be made available to MERA and to establish what arrangements have been put in place to monitor the developer's compliance with the conditions as well as to establish what sanctions would apply if any, some or all of the conditions are being breached. It was agreed that JG should prepare such a letter, distribute it to committee members for comment, etc.  
  
(b) There was a wide-ranging discussion about concerns which had arisen about the conduct of a bat survey commissioned by the appellants to East Dunbartonshire Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the development of houses in Craigton Woods. For example, there were concerns that the appellants had been allowed to conduct this survey and submit a report on it to DPEA some weeks after DPEA's published deadline for the submission of further representations in relation to the appeal. It was agreed that these concerns should be brought to the attention of the local MSP, Gil Paterson, and that he should be asked to establish why the appellant's had been given the freedom to submit further representations well after the deadline for doing so when it appeared that no other organisations with a legitimate interest in this matter had been afforded a similar licence. It was agreed that JG should prepare notes to support an approach to the local MSP and that John Ross, while not a member of MERA's committee per se, should represent the residents' concerns to Mr Paterson.
- 10/11. (a) There was some discussion about leaf clearing and the emptying of street/path and park litter bins. It was agreed that JG should contact the relevant department(s) in East Dunbartonshire Council to establish when leaf clearing in the estate would be happening and what arrangements had been made for litter bin emptying.

(b) A report on a meeting which had been held with the Lead Officer for signage in relation to *Healthy Habits in Milngavie* was noted; the report had been circulated to members of the committee.

(c) RH gave a report on a meeting about *Milngavie Station Improvements* which had been held recently.

12. Date and time of next meeting; 27.01.16, Douglas Academy, 07.00 pm